Serial No. 09/151,321

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the previous version of the claims with the following clean version, wherein claims 1, 11, and 16 incorporate new amendments thereto, no claims have been cancelled, and no claims have been added.

1.   (Three Times Amended) A device for selecting a network-connected image forming apparatus from a plurality of network-connected image forming apparatuses, where each of at least two of the plurality of image forming apparatuses has a specific mode, the device comprising:

a controller for selecting one of the plurality of image forming apparatuses connected with the network,

wherein when an input job has a specific mode, said controller selects an image forming apparatus which has a specific mode and which stores a prior job having the specific mode of the input job at the time the selection is made, and

said controller for registering the input job in the selected image forming apparatus.

2.   A device according to claim 1, wherein said selected image forming apparatus is adapted to form images of a job having the specific mode which requires temporarily stopping the selected image forming apparatus.

3.   A device according to claim 2, wherein said selected image forming apparatus has a manual paper feeding specific mode.

4.   A device according to claim 2, wherein said selected image forming apparatus is adapted to form an image of a job possessing the specific mode requiring changing paper positioned in the selected image forming apparatus.

5.   A device according to claim 2, further comprising:
notice means for notifying a user to place an indicated type of paper in the selected image forming apparatus.

6.   A device according to claim 1, wherein said controller selects one of the plurality of image forming apparatuses not storing a job of the specific mode when the input job does not have the specific mode.

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7. A device according to claim 1,

wherein each of said plurality of image forming apparatuses has a memory for storing jobs, and

wherein said controller selects an image forming apparatus not storing a job in the memory of the selected image forming apparatus when an image forming apparatus storing a job of the specific mode cannot be referenced.

8. A device according to claim 7, wherein said controller selects an image forming apparatus having a greater remaining memory than any other of the plurality of image forming apparatuses when an image forming apparatus not having a job stored in memory cannot be referenced.

9. A device according to claim 1, wherein when said input job has the specific mode where the specific mode indicates a requirement for a specific size paper,

said controller receives information from the plurality of image forming apparatuses regarding a size of paper in each of the image forming apparatuses, and

wherein, when no image forming apparatus contains the specific size paper, said controller selects as a selected image forming apparatus an image forming apparatus storing a job having a different specific mode and said controller registers said input job in the selected image forming apparatus.

10. A device according to claim 9, further comprising:

notice means for notifying a user to place an indicated type of paper in the selected image forming apparatus.

11. (Three Times Amended) An image forming apparatus connected with a job management device through a network, said image forming apparatus comprising:

a memory for storing jobs;

discriminating means for discriminating whether any of the jobs stored in the memory has a specific mode in order to determine a status of the memory; and

reporting means for reporting the status of the memory to the job management device such that the job management device can determine whether or not to route an

input job having a specific mode to the image forming apparatus based on whether any of the jobs stored in the memory has the specific mode of the input job.

12. An image forming apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said memory stores a job having the specific mode requiring temporary stoppage of the image forming apparatus.

13. An image forming apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said memory stores a job having the specific mode requiring a selected image forming apparatus having a manual paper feeding mode.

14. An image forming apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said memory stores a job having the specific mode requiring changing paper positioned in the selected image forming apparatus.

15. An image forming apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising:

image forming means for forming images on recording medium in order of the sequence of jobs stored in said memory.

16. (Three Times Amended) A network system comprising:

a network for transmitting data;

a plurality of image forming apparatuses connected with said network and each of the plurality of image forming apparatuses having a memory for storing jobs;

discriminating means for discriminating a status of the memory based on whether the memory stores a job having a specific mode;

reporting means for reporting to the network the status of the memory of any of the plurality of image forming apparatuses whose memory stores a job having a specific mode; and

a control device for selecting one of said plurality of image forming apparatuses connected with the network and for registering an input job in the selected image forming apparatus,

wherein when said input job has a specific mode, said control device selects an image forming apparatus whose memory stores a job having the specific mode of the input job.

18. A device according to claim 1, wherein the specific mode of the prior job stored in the image forming apparatus is a manual paper feeding mode.

19. An image forming apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the specific mode of the prior job stored in the image forming apparatus is a manual paper feeding mode.

20. A network system according to claim 16, wherein the specific mode of the prior job stored in the image forming apparatus is a manual paper feeding mode.